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STATE OF ALASKA
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STATE OF ALASKA
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a major earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.9 occurred on the Denali Fault in Interior Alaska on November 3, 2002, with strong aftershocks continuing; and,

WHEREAS, the earthquake caused a disaster resulting in severe and widespread damage and loss of property, and threat to life and property in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Denali Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and numerous communities within the Delta Greely, Alaska Gateway, Copper River, and Yukon-Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Areas including the cities of Tetlin, Mentasta Lake, Northway, Dot Lake, Chistochina and Tanacross, and the unincorporated communities of Slana and Tok; and,


WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of this disaster: severe damage to numerous personal residences requiring evacuation and sheltering of the residents; extensive damage to primary highways, including the Richardson Highway, the Tok Cutoff, and the Parks Highway, and road links to communities, including the Mentasta Road and Northway Road; significant damage to the Northway Airport; damage to supports for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, necessitating shutdown of the pipeline; fuel spills from residential storage tanks; significant damage to water, septic, sewer and electrical systems; and other damage to personal and real property; and,

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response capability of local resources and further repairs and damage mitigation will be necessary and rapid response is critical due to the onset of winter; and,

WHEREAS, there are insufficient regularly appropriated funds to cover these requirements;

NOW THEREFORE, on this 6th day of November, 2002, under the authority granted by the Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020, I hereby declare that a condition of disaster exists in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Denali Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and numerous communities within the Delta Greely, Alaska Gateway, Copper River, and Yukon-Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Areas including the cities of Tetlin, Mentasta Lake, Northway, Dot Lake, Chistochina and Tanacross, and the unincorporated communities of Slana and Tok; and, that this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration in order to provide assistance; and

FURTHER The Director of the Division of Emergency Services is hereby authorized to utilize funds made available for these purposes which are considered necessary for disaster assistance, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020 (i) and AS 26.23.050. The Director of ADES is the designated state coordinating officer; and, is further authorized to task, as necessary, the state departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Plans; and is further authorized to exercise as necessary, the provisions provided under Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020 (g) (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), and (10).

By: 
Tony Knowles
Governor